

*The gigantic views of Col. Burr are now believed, completely frustrated. The particulars of his plan are unfolded in the following deposition of Gen. William Eaton before the circuit court of the district of Columbia.—*

Early last winter, col. Aaron Burr, late vice-president of the United States, signified to me, at this place, that, under the authority of the general government, he was organizing a secret expedition against the Spanish provinces on our south-western borders; which expedition he was to lead, and in which he was authorised to invite me to take the command of a division. I had never before been made personally acquainted with col. Burr; and, having for many years been employed in foreign service, I knew but little about the estimation this gentleman now held in the opinion of his countrymen and his government; the rank and confidence by which he had so lately been distinguished left me no right to suspect his patriotism. I knew him a soldier. In case of a war with the Spanish nation, which from the tenor of the president's message to both Houses of Congress seemed probable, I should have thought it my duty to obey so honorable a call of my country; and, under that impression, I did engage to embark in the expedition. I had frequent interviews with col. Burr in this city—and, for a considerable time, his object seemed to be to instruct me, by maps and other information, the feasibility of penetrating to Mexico—always carrying forward the idea, that the measure was authorised by government. At length, some time in February, he began by degrading to unveil himself.—He reproached the government with want of character, want of gratitude, and want of justice. He seemed desirous of irritating resentment in my breast by dilating on certain injuries he felt I had suffered from reflections made on the floor of the House of Representatives concerning my operations in Barbary, and from the delays of government in adjusting my claims for disbursements on that coast during my consular agency at Tunis; and he said he would point me to an honorable mode of indemnity. I now began to entertain a suspicion that Mr. Burr was projecting an unauthorised military expedition, which, to me, was en-

veloped in mystery; and, desirous to draw an explanation from him, I suffered him to suppose me resigned to his counsel.—He now laid open his project of revolutionizing the western country, separating it from the union, establishing a monarchy there, of which he was to be the sovereign, New Orleans to be his capital: organizing a force on the waters of the Mississippi and extending conquest to Mexico. I suggested a number of impediments to his scheme; such as the republican habits of the citizens of that country, and their affection towards our present administration of government; the want of funds; the resistance he would meet from the regular army of the United States on those frontiers: and the opposition of Miranda in case he should succeed to republicanise the Mexicans. Mr. Burr found no difficulty in removing these obstacles—he said he had, the preceding season, made a tour through that country, and had secured the attachment of the principal citizens of Kentucky, Tennessee and Louisiana, to his person and his measures—declared he had inexhaustible resources of funds—assured me the regular army would act with him, and would be reinforced by ten or twelve thousand men from the above-mentioned states and territory, and from other parts of the union—said he had powerful agents in the Spanish territory—and as for Miranda, said Mr. Burr, we must hang Miranda. He now proposed to give me the second command in his army. I asked him who should have the chief command. He said, General Wilkinson. I observed it was singular he should count on General Wilkinson: the elevated rank and high trust he now held, as commander in chief of our army and governor of a province, he would hardly put at hazard for any precarious prospects of aggrandizement. Mr. Burr said, Gen. Wilkinson balanced in the confidence of government, was doubtful of retaining much longer the consideration he now enjoyed, and was consequently prepared to secure to himself a permanency. I asked Mr. Burr if he knew Gen. Wilkinson. He answered yes; and echoed the question. I said I knew him well. "What do you know of him?" said Mr. Burr. I know, I replied, that Gen. Wilkinson will act as Lieutenant to no man in existence.—"You are in an error," said Mr. Burr, "Wilkinson will act as Lieutenant to me." From the tenor of repeated con-

versations with Mr. Burr, I was induced to believe the plan of separating the Union, which he had mentioned, had been communicated to, and approved of by Gen. Wilkinson, (though I now suspect it an artful argument of seduction) and he often expressed a full confidence, that the General's influence, the offer of double pay and double rations, the prospect of plunder, and the ambitious achievement, would draw the army into his measures.-----Mr. Burr talked of the establishment of an independent government west of the Allegheny, as a matter of inherent, constitutional right of the people, a change which would eventually take place, and for the operation of which the present crisis was peculiarly favourable. There was, said he, no energy in the government to be dreaded; and the divisions of political opinions throughout the Union, was a circumstance of which we should profit. There were very many enterprising men among us, who aspired to something beyond the dull pursuits of civil life, who would volunteer in this enterprize; and the vast territory belonging to the United States, which offered to adventurers, and the mines of Mexico, would bring strength to his standard from all quarters. I listened to the exposition of Col. Burr's views with seeming acquiescence. Every interview convinced me more and more, that he had organized a deep laid plot of treason in the west, in the accomplishment of which he felt fully confident; till, at length, I discovered that his ambition was not bounded by the waters of the Mississippi and Mexico, but that he meditated overthrowing the present government of our country. He said, if he could gain over the marine corps, and secure the naval commanders, Truxton, Preble, Decatur, and others, he would turn Congress neck and heels out of doors, assassinate the President, seize on the treasury and navy, and declare himself the protector of an energetic government. The honourable trust of corrupting the marine corps, and of sounding commodore Preble and captain Decatur, Col. Burr proposed confiding to me. Shocked at this proposition, I dropped the mask and exclaimed against his views. He talked of the degraded situation of our country, and the necessity of a blow by which its energy and its dignity should be restored—said, if that blow could be struck here at this time, he was confident of the support of the best blood of America,